

the fairness and ability with which His Excellency has discharged the duties of his high office, and the warm desire he has always manifested for the prosperity of Canada and the welfare of its people. His Excellency's reply was peculiarly graceful and pleasing, no less in the tribute which he paid to the memory of his distinguished brother, a tribute rendered especially fitting by reason of the late Earl's intelligent interest in colonial affairs, than in his modest allusions to the part which he himself has taken in the affairs of the Dominion, and his warm and evidently sincere expressions of interest in Canada and Canadians, and of regret at the necessity of leaving them. His eulogistic reference to his successor was as generous as we believe it to be just. However valid may be the political and constitutional reasons which justify the rule or usage which decrees those periodical changes in the office of Governor-General, which the Society very naturally deprecates, it is pleasing to know that in almost every instance the departure of the distinguished nobleman who has filled the position for the allotted period is an occasion of sincere and mutual regret. Earl Derby may certainly carry with him, wherever his duties may call him in the future, the assurance of the respect and well wishes of the Canadian people.

We do not profess to be wise enough to explain fully the cause or causes of the astounding facts revealed in the trade statements of the United States for the year ending the 30th of April, 1893. The falling off in value of exports to the extent of nearly \$163,000,000 as compared with those of the preceding year is a phenomenon for which even the iniquities of the McKinley Bill are inadequate to account, though it no doubt had much to do, directly and indirectly, in bringing about the result. One lesson, however, we may learn, and rely upon with perfect confidence in its correctness. That lesson, a most valuable one to us as well as to our neighbours, is the utter failure of the high tariff to accomplish the end for which it was specially designed. There can be no doubt that if those who devised and enacted that famous measure had any one chief end in view it was to decrease imports and increase exports, or at least to increase the volume of exports in proportion to that of imports, so as to produce what is generally supposed to be a favourable balance of trade. Yet the very opposite result has been reached. While the exports have decreased to the alarming extent above indicated, the imports have increased to the amount of about \$94,000,000, making the total balance of trade against the Republic no less than \$78,000,000. The utter failure of what seemed a most cunning and was certainly a most selfish scheme to give American manufacturers either access to foreign markets or control of their own is writ so large that he who runs may read. The demonstration of

the fact that unadulterated selfishness in trade is bad in policy as well as in morals is most opportune at this juncture. It can hardly fail to strengthen the hands of tariff-reformers in Canada as well as in the United States, for the object-lesson is put before our eyes almost as plainly as before theirs. Protection fails to protect. It can neither secure home nor open up foreign markets. Its chief effect is to burden consumers and create millionaires. Surely if the American trade report teaches anything it teaches these lessons. And they are lessons of sterling value.

The project of the Toronto Aqueduct Company, as explained by Alderman Leslie on Friday evening, is certainly an ambitious one, and one which, if it can be shown to be at all practicable, deserves the sympathy and consideration asked for by its representatives and promoters and pledged by the citizens present at the meeting. The capital required is very large, and so far we have failed to understand from what sources it is hoped to procure it. If, however, it can be shown to the satisfaction of capitalists that the canal can be built for \$65,000,000, and that the income from freights alone may reasonably be expected to pay four per cent. upon a capital of \$100,000,000, there should be no serious difficulty in raising the amount required. It is pleasing to learn that no bonus or subsidy is to be asked from the City. With that condition every one must wish success to the Company. It is not quite clear what amount of importance is attached by the promoters to the proposal to supply the City with water at the rate of three cents per thousand gallons, or at any other rate. It is to be hoped that this is not by any means a *sine qua non*, as indeed it need not be if the calculations presented by Alderman Leslie are at all near the mark. To say nothing of other weighty objections, it is quite clear that the City cannot afford to wait for the completion of so formidable an undertaking. It is imperative that an ample supply of pure water be had at the earliest possible moment, and that moment must surely arrive before the end of the present summer. Indeed, there is now good reason to hope that it may come in a very few weeks. No one, we suppose, doubts the purity of the source of supply in the lake, and if the engineer can but complete a real connection with that source, which is certainly feasible, and can prevent leakage of bay water into the conduit, which there is good reason to believe can be done by the erection of an auxiliary pumping plant at the Island, if not otherwise, the problem will have been solved, and solved without removing any part of the work from City control. It is clear, moreover, that the saving of the cost of a trunk sewer, on which Alderman Leslie reckoned, should not and must not be relied on. The trunk sewer is a necessity under any circumstances.

The people of Toronto cannot afford to have the waters on the city front permanently polluted, no matter whence they draw their supply for domestic purposes.

We are glad to be able to lay before our readers this week an extended abstract of the admirable address delivered by Dr. Bourinot, the President of the Royal Society of Canada, at the recent meeting of that society. Every thoughtful reader will agree heartily with Dr. Bourinot in deprecating the tendency of the time, especially in this western world, to an overestimate of material success, and a corresponding indifference to those higher things without which life, even at the acme of material prosperity, is not really worth living. In the bird's-eye glance which the learned President gives us of the intellectual development of Canada, during each of the three historical periods into which her history so naturally falls, he supplies the young student of that history with an outline which is even more valuable in its suggestiveness than in the not inconsiderable amount of information which is so well condensed within the small compass of a public address. Canada's intellectual record is necessarily meagre, and her literary honour roll necessarily brief, even during the last and most fruitful half-century of her existence. Yet both the record and the roll are such as we have no reason to feel ashamed of under the circumstances.

The future prosperity and progress of our Confederation, material, political, and moral, as well as intellectual, depends largely upon the preservation of harmony and cordial sympathy between the two peoples of different race and language who make up the bulk of its population, that every intelligent patriot must desire with Dr. Bourinot to see a friendly rivalry on the part of the best minds among French and English Canadians, along all the lines of a true national development. We see no reason to doubt the correctness of his forecast that the use of the French language in Canada will continue into a far-off future. English will no doubt become more and more the language of business and commercial life in all parts of the Dominion, but the *habitants* will cling to the speech of their fathers in their homes, their social circles, and their churches, for many generations. Who can blame them or wish it otherwise? This, however, suggests the query whether the English-speaking people of Canada do not besides losing much from a literary point of view, deprive themselves of a legitimate source of influence, in failing to acquaint themselves and their children with the language of so large and important a part of their fellow-citizens. A considerable and, it is believed, constantly increasing number of French Canadians are learning English for practical and business purposes, but it is idle to expect that the great mass of them will in the near future